



Governor's Coronavirus Working Group

November 8, 2021

MINUTES

Members In attendance:

Dave Jeppesen
Dr. David Pate
Bryan Mooney
Brad Richy
Carol Moehrle
Brian Whitlock

Staff In Attendance:

Kathie Brack, DHW
Elke Shaw-Tulloch, DHW
Dr. Chris Hahn, DHW
Sara Stover, Governor's Office
Don Duffy, PHD1
Maggie Mann, PHD 7
Geri Rackow, PHD 6
Nikole Zogg, PHD 3 *
Melody Bowyer, PHD 5 *
Joel Wilson
Sara Leeds, DHW
Sara Garrett, DHW
Dr. Kathryn Turner
Kelly Petroff, DHW
Greg Stahl, DHW
Louis Hougaard, Governor's Office
Sara Stover, Governor's Office
Angela Wickham, DHW
Niki Forbing-Orr, DHW

Situation Update - Dr. Hahn, Division of Public Health (PPT available)

- U.S. case decline may have plateaued
- Idaho currently ranked 15th
- Deaths in Idaho very high in the recent surge
- Vaccinations
 - 65+ ~ 80%
 - Adolescent & teen vaccinations ~ 33.2%
- New Therapeutics

- AZD7442 - mAb for pre-exposure prophylaxis – 2 long-acting mAbs bind to spike proteins for longer lasting protection (9 mos.) for immunocompromised
- Reduced symptomatic Covid-19 by 77%
- Applied for EUA
- Oral antiviral – approved by FDA & CDC

Questions – Dr. Pate: Are we seeing Delta+ in Idaho? **Dr. Hahn:** We thought we had one case, but it is no longer confirmed by CDC.

Data Review – Dr. Kathryn Turner, Division of Public Health (PPT)

- Idaho data review
 - Decreasing percent of positivity (10.3%) ~1% decrease per week
 - Mid-December to get to 5% positivity rate
 - Variations by region: PHDs 3,4,5 decreasing; 6 and 7 increasing
 - 36% decrease in cases reported
- Pediatric Cases – higher peak with Delta this surge compared to December 2020 surge (~1700)
 - Increase in MIS-C
 - Peak cases 873 (12-17); 659 (5-11); 256 (0-4) peak cases
- Breakthrough cases – plateaued
- Death rates – relatively high
 - 2020- 80+/ 52/1% 50-70/ 44/7%; 18-49/ 3.2%
 - 2021 – 80+/ 31.7; 50-70/ 60.2%; 18-49/ 8.1%

Questions – Dr. Pate: Do we think Delta has created more severe disease (higher hospitalizations). **Dr. Hahn:** We know Delta is more contagious; I think we are seeing more hospitalizations because more people are infected + more mild cases and people don't get tested. **Dr. Turner** – Home tests have skewed data. **Dr. Pate:** What is the on not fully vaccinated vs. not vaccinated. **Dr. Turner:** We have not looked at this data. We do not know if there is any protection with one dose. It looks like a smaller population, but we have not done an exhaustive review. **Dr. Hahn:** We know from the clinical trials there is some protection from single dose but the immunity wanes quickly.

Hospital Update – Brian Whitlock, Idaho Hospital Association

- Update on hospital capacity by district. Still seeing stress in hospitals across the state.
- No PICU bed availability in the state.
- Handful of ICU beds available.
- Example of Bonner General in Sandpoint, 25 beds and 15 patients at this point in time; 36 percent of those are COVID positive infectious patients (after 10 days with COVID, patients will no longer be counted as infections).
- Kootenai Health – 31 percent of patients are COVID positive infectious patients.
- Hospitals are seeing pent-up needs so although COVID patient numbers may be less, there are still a lot of patients in the hospitals (overall census remains high). Now seeing delayed cases in the hospitals. If there is a hospital bed, it is getting filled.

- A lot of emergency department holds overnight throughout the state because no bed availability.
- Increased numbers of adolescent holds for behavioral health issues (most likely caused by stress from COVID, etc.)

Financial Update – Elke Shaw-Tulloch

Review of \$40M in grants

- Hospital Support Grants
- Primary Care and Urgent Care Grants
- Monoclonal Antibody Site Grants
- Vaccine Provider Capacity, Safety and Reporting
- Mobile Vaccine

Dr. Pate: Just looking at the hospital data, I think we have to be careful about our messaging and about coming out of CSC. Concerned that after we exit, people will assume it is over, and if they were on the fence about getting the vaccine, they may not do it now.

I did have a conversation with a school board trustee, and that person said that once the hospitals exited CSC, they would eliminate mask requirements all together.

There are hospitals in every part of the state in the red. CSC offers some liability protection and some hospitals may be hesitant to see CSC go away prematurely. Hope there is some consideration about a regional approach.

Comments and discussion around Crisis Standards of Care. **Dave Jeppesen:** The decision to exit Crisis Standards of Care is an ongoing discussion by the CSC Activation Committee. A regional approach is being considered.

School Update – Joel Wilson, deputy director for the State Board of Education

Schools are still facing difficult issues related to COVID policies and protocol. They were a factor in the recent school board elections across the state, and about 45 percent of incumbent board members lost the elections to those who want to come in and change policies and practices.

Lots of staffing shortages throughout the state.

Gov. Brad Little has a grant reimbursement program for school districts to make hires, and it is starting to ramp up.

At a superintendent's round table a few weeks ago, the issues mentioned were:

- Staffing shortages
- Learning loss
- Emotional support

Dr. Pate: Are you planning for the future due to this pandemic? Are you looking at remote/online learning enhancements, ventilation and air handlings in school buildings, etc.?

Mr. Wilson: Yes, we are planning for the future.

Vaccine Update – Sarah Garrett, Division of Public Health (PPT)

Current vaccination efforts and challenges

- Review of current data
- Review of pediatric COVID-19 vaccine information
- Current challenges (across all ages)
 - Low demand in some communities and among some groups
 - Access barriers (transportation, time off, etc.)
 - Misinformation
 - Strongly held beliefs against vaccination

Mr. Wilson: Can you mix and match the different brand of vaccines? **Dr. Hahn:** Yes, but the best data we have is from using the same vaccine brand.

Note: The COVID dashboard will start adding vaccine data related to 5 to 11 year old Idahoans in the next few weeks (1,400 to date).

Adjournment